

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 ERDA-05 OES-07 OMB-01 /078 W

-----250206Z 026306 /70

R 241603Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO CINCUSNAVEUR

INFO CNO

SECSTATE WASHDC 438

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4019

FOR ADMIRAL BAGLEY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP

SUBJECT: NPW PORT VISITS TO SPAIN

REF: CINCUSNAVEUR 210820Z MAY 77 (NOTAL)

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUING CLOSE COLLABORATION AS WE WORK WITH THE VARIOUS SPANISH GOVT AGENCIES INVOLVED TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE HOSPITABLE TO EXPANDING NPW VISITS TO SPAIN BEYOND ROTA TO CIVILIAN HARBORS. IT WILL BE HELPFUL TO HAVE SOON YOUR THOUGHTS ON WHAT WE MIGHT PROVIDE THE SPANISH TO RESPOND TO THEIR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN A FORECAST OF POSSIBLE NPW VISITS (INCLUDING THE NPTG) IN THE YEAR TO COME.

2. OUR CONTACTS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY LEAD US TO EXPECT GOS APPROVAL SOON OF A JUNE 16-19 VISIT BY THE SSN LOS ANGELES TO ROTA.

3. BASED ON THE EXPECTATION THAT THE SPANISH NAVY WILL BY EARLY
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JULY HAVE TECHNICALLY CLEARED PALMA DE MALLORCA FOR NPW VISITS (JUSMG-MAAG 171257Z MAY 77), WE ARE ALSO BEGINNING NOW FURTHER EFFORTS TO PREPARE THE GROUND FOR AN SSN VISIT THERE. YOU WILL ALREADY HAVE SEEN MADRID 3594 (DTG 091835Z MAY 77) REPORTING MY RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE NEW NAVY MINISTER. APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF THE MISSION WILL IN THE DAYS TO COME BE TAKING OTHER SOUNDINGS.

4. THERE ARE SEVERAL UNKNOWNNS WITH WHICH WE MUST DEAL AT THIS JUNCTURE:

--WHETHER THE GOS IS PREPARED TO MAKE DECISIONS IN THIS AREA DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, OR EVEN BEFORE A NEW GOVT IS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED;
--WHETHER A FIRST VISIT TO PALMA DE MALLORCA AT THE HEIGHT OF THE TOURIST SEASON WILL BE COUNTENANCED;
--WHETHER EVEN THE SPANISH NAVY IS PREPARED TO AGREE TO AN SSN VISIT TO PALMA BEFORE A VISIT (CONSIDERED LESS DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY TO

SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION) BY A NUCLEAR-POWERED SURFACE SHIP;
--WHAT POSITION THE POLITICAL SIDE OF THE GOS WILL NOW TAKE REGARDING THE PACE OF NPW VISITS (THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN THINKING IN TERMS OF ONLY SEVERAL VISITS A YEAR, BUT IN CONNECTION WITH ROTA AT LEAST NOW SEEMS AMENDABLE TO MORE);
AND

--WHETHER ANY NEW REQUEST WOULD BE FAVORABLY RECEIVED BEFORE THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 16-19 VISIT OF THE SSN LOS ANGELES ARE KNOWN. ALL THIS IS MADE SOMEWHAT MORE COMPLEX BY THE FACT THAT SUAREZ IS HIMSELF RUNNING FOR PARLIAMENT AND WILL WISH TO AVOID CREATING ISSUES ON WHICH HE COULD BE CRITICIZED. THE FACT THAT TWO SURFACE NPW'S AND TWO SSN'S HAVE VISITED ROTA SINCE LATE JANUARY WITHOUT INCIDENT DOES NOT COUNT FOR A GREAT DEAL IN GOS WEIGHING OF THIS MATTER SINCE NONE OF THESE VISITS BECAME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND THEREFORE PUBLIC REACTION COULD NOT BE MEASURED.

5. GIVEN THESE SEVERAL UNCERTAINTIES, IT SEEMS WISE TO TAKE
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THESE FURTHER INFORMAL SOUNDINGS BEFORE MAKING ANY FORMAL REQUEST FOR SSN VISITS OTHER THAN TO ROTA. WE HAVE IN MIND THAT IT WOULD BE MORE IN OUR INTEREST TO DELAY THE LATTER UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS IF THE LIKELIHOOD WERE THAT AN EARLIER REQUEST MIGHT PRODUCE A NEGATIVE RESPONSE OF BROADER APPLICABILITY THAN TO JUST AN EARLY SSN VISIT TO PALMA.

6. WHEN WE HAVE A BETTER ESTIMATE OF THE PROSPECTS, I WILL BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH YOU.

7. BEST REGARDS.STABLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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